



GUNPOWDER CURRENTS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GUNPOWDER FALLS AND
NORTH POINT STATE PARKS

SUMMER AND FALL 2017



WHAT'S INSIDE!

After a successful summer like the one we experienced last year, Gunpowder Falls State Park is looking forward to another safe and fun season. We have a ton of family-friendly activities planned for this summer and fall, which are described in detail in this issue of the *Gunpowder Currents*.

Our dedicated staff has also contributed some wonderful articles with summer safety tips and tricks, what it's like to be in the Maryland Conservation Corps, and the awesome birding opportunities found throughout Gunpowder. Read on and enjoy!

Gunpowder Falls State Park Headquarters | P.O. Box 480
2813 Jerusalem Road, Kingsville, MD 21087 | 410-592-2897



Spotlight on Gunpowder

Read articles written by
our staff about ways to
enjoy Gunpowder!



Calendar of Events

Join us for a variety of
fun, family-oriented
programs!



Get Involved!

Find out how to apply
for seasonal positions
and volunteer
opportunities.

Fun in the Sun! Summer Safety Tips



As the days grow longer and the temperatures begin to rise we experience a rapid increase in the number of park patrons visiting all areas of Gunpowder Falls State Park. Many people take advantage of the warmer weather to get outside and explore the natural, historical and recreational resources our park has to offer. In order to have a fun and safe summer, here are some simple guidelines that everyone should follow!

Sun Safety

- Avoid direct sun exposure as much as possible during the peak hours of 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Wear a hat, sunglasses and protective clothing when outdoors for long periods of time.
- Apply sunscreen to exposed areas of the skin to reduce the risk of sunburn or sun poisoning. Remember to re-apply regularly

especially after swimming!

- Make sure to drink plenty of water and eat food when partaking in outside activities to prevent heat exhaustion and even heat stroke.

Water Safety

- Never leave children unattended near a pool or open body of water. Responsible adult supervision is the best way to prevent drowning.
- Have rescue equipment and a cell phone on hand in case of an emergency.
- Avoid inflatable swimming aids as a primary source of flotation; they can provide a false sense of security. Small children should wear life jackets when in and near water.

Insect Safety

- Avoid areas where insects gather such as stagnant water, tall grass and uncovered food.
- Wear long pants and long sleeves when hiking.
- Use insect repellent. Use of repellent with DEET is recommended when visiting areas with high populations of ticks and chiggers.

Following these few simple tips will help everyone stay safe while enjoying the outdoors in the summer months. We wish everyone a safe summer full of hiking, biking, picnicking and swimming!

Written by Brooke Bartko, Maryland Conservation Corps Crew Leader. Brooke is an experienced beachfront lifeguard who has worked several seasons at the Hammerman Area.

Spring Migration: Birds Return to Gunpowder



The change of seasons in Gunpowder Falls State Park transforms both the landscape and the variety of wildlife all around us. As the ground thaws and the wildflowers begin to bloom, our trees come alive with songs of the migratory birds returning to their breeding grounds.

With the purpose of establishing their territories and acquiring mates, the unique vocal performances can be as rich as the Blue Grosbeak's or as repetitious as the Oven Bird's. The ability to recognize the song is part of the larger whole of identifying birds for birders and nature enthusiasts alike. Examining the behavior of a particular bird's migration pattern will tell you when, where and how long that particular bird will be in an area such as Gunpowder Falls.

Some of the early migrants (arriving in March) include birds like the Purple Martin, Brown-Headed Cowbird and Osprey. Later migrants (arriving in April and May) include the Tricolored Heron, Eastern Kingbird and Magnolia Warbler. Breeding ground location is dependent upon habitat, food resources

and the abundance of predators. For this reason, Hart-Miller Island in the Chesapeake Bay hosts the greatest diversity of birds found in Gunpowder Falls.

Offering 1,100-acres of mixed habitat including shoreline, meadow, wetland and forest that are relatively predator-free (one lone fox roams the island complex), Hart-Miller Island provides refuge for over 280 species of birds.

Other locations in our park rich in bird activity for all nature-enthusiasts to enjoy is North Point State Park. Featuring 667 acres of protected State Wildlands including a beautiful marsh, birders can enjoy sightings of the Little Blue Heron, Common Loon and a multitude of Warbler species.

Our Central Area - including Jerusalem Mill and Sweet Air - offers a more expansive range of mature forest, creating breeding habitat for birds such as the secretive Black-Billed Cuckoo and the vibrant Scarlet Tanager.

As winter ends, our park guests can prepare for yet another exciting spring bird migration within the beautiful boundaries of Gunpowder Falls. Being able to recognize the different and abundant bird species that make their way back north, stopping through Maryland to visit or stay for the summer, is one step closer to appreciating Maryland's special ecosystems.

Written by Jared Novia. Jared is a Maryland Conservation Corps member at Gunpowder Falls who is an avid birder. Guiding birding programs throughout the park, he knows special locations to find particular birds. No matter the season, Jared is out in the elements using bird calls in hopes of grabbing the attention of his favorite birds.

Behind the Scenes: Maryland Conservation Corps

Things become relatively quiet in the park after Labor Day weekend. The shorter, colder days slow the wave of daily visitors to a trickle of devoted regulars. Taking advantage of this tranquility is a group of devoted AmeriCorps volunteers, who each day work hand-in-hand with the park's staff to prepare for the return of our summer visitors; to make our park sharper, safer, and an all-around more enjoyable place to visit. This group is the Maryland Conservation Corps.



Inspired by Franklin D. Roosevelt's Depression-era program, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Maryland Conservation Corps looks to build on that legacy of environmental stewardship by improving our state parks for the benefit of our visitors, while at the same time training the next generation of environmental

stewards. Members receive training in a wide range of skills, including environmental interpretation, sustainable trail construction and wildland firefighting.

To date, our crew has completed over 4,500 collective service hours for the Maryland Park Service. Those hours were devoted to a wide variety of projects around Gunpowder and across the state. In October and early May, crews across the state traveled to New Germany State Park and treated over 5,500 eastern hemlock trees to protect them from the invasive hemlock wooly adelgid, a parasitic insect from eastern Asia. In November, the Gunpowder and Susquehanna crews teamed up to remove almost four acres of shrubs and saplings to make room for dredge material from Dundee Creek in order to improve the experience of boaters utilizing our marina. Over the winter, the Gunpowder and Patapsco crews used nothing but hand tools and brute strength to move an estimated 7.6 tons of stone and earth to form a new switchback along their Cascade Falls Trail.

Though we have already accomplished a great deal, we still have another 3,000 service hours to complete before finishing the program in August. There is no shortage of work to be done, and we are ready and eager to take on future tasks to improve park facilities for our patrons.

Written by John Kinney, a member of Gunpowder's Maryland Conservation Corps crew. Born and raised in Upstate New York, he had never been to Maryland prior to joining the program in October.

Family Programs and Special Events

Join Gunpowder Falls State Park's knowledgeable and friendly staff at one of our various programs or special events to make new memories, discoveries and friends while recreating in the great outdoors.

Street addresses for locations are provided after the list of events. Asterisks next to programs indicate the requirement for pre-registration due to limited resources. Please email Ranger Andrea Townsley-Sapp at andrea.townsley-sapp@maryland.gov to register, or consider joining us for free on Meetup at <https://www.meetup.com/Gunpowder-Falls-State-Park-Nature-Programs-Events/> to view the most current calendar of events and easily register for our events.

All events are subject to cancellation. Please check our Twitter page at twitter.com/GunpowderSP for event cancellation notices.

Participants pre-registered for programs will be notified directly.

Moth Mania and Campfire at Jerusalem Mill

June 3: 9:30 p.m.

July 1: 9:30 p.m.

August 5: 9:00 p.m.

September 2: 8:00 p.m.

We too will be drawn to the light as we set up a moth attraction station to observe, catch and identify moths and other nighttime insects. People of all ages are invited to enjoy a special night observing animals rarely seen up close. Naturalists will be on hand to assist in identification of species. A campfire will also be lit and free s'mores will be served!



Picture by Angela Crewnshaw

National Trails Day Celebration - Guided Hikes in Hereford

June 4: 1:00 p.m. (Falls Rd) and 4:00 p.m. (Mt. Carmel Rd)

Falls Rd - What to Expect:

Celebrate National Trails Day by joining us for a guided hike in the beautiful and serene Hereford Area! We will be hiking the Gunpowder South Trail to the Prettyboy Dam. This hike is approximately 3 miles roundtrip on moderate-to-difficult terrain. The trail features rock scrambling and lots of thick mountain laurel. Not recommended for young children or pets. Please wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and bring water.

Mt. Carmel Rd - What to Expect:

Celebrate National Trails Day by joining us for a guided hike in the beautiful and serene Hereford Area! We will hike along the Mingo Valley trail system for approximately 2.5 miles on moderate-to-difficult terrain. Please wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and bring water.

Guided Hike on the Quarry Trail

June 6: 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a short guided hike along the Little Gunpowder Trail to the Quarry Trail. This is a roughly 2-mile guided hike with the option to continue further southeast on the Little Gunpowder Trail after returning to the parking lot. The Quarry Trail loops around a historic mining quarry that offers a beautiful vista of the area below. Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring water.

**Bike Through History
(beginning at Bentley Springs)**

May 31: 6:30 p.m. (beginning at Paper Mill)

June 7: 6:30 p.m. (Bentley Springs)

June 14: 6:30 p.m. (Monkton)

June 21: 6:30 p.m. (White Hall)

June 28: 6:30 p.m. (Sparks)

July 5: 6:30 p.m. (Freeland)

July 12: 6:30 p.m. (Parkton)

July 19: 6:30 p.m. (Phoenix)

"Bike Through History" is conducted by volunteer members



Photo by Maryland Department of Natural Resources

of the NCR/Hereford Volunteers Association. The Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail - formerly the Northern Central Railroad Trail - is located in northern Baltimore County and extends for nearly 20 miles from Ashland to the Pennsylvania state line. Its route is the former right-of-way of the Northern Central branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Rides begin at 6:30 p.m. and return about two hours later. This is an 8-week series, reoccurring every Wednesday through July 19, but beginning at a different part of the trail each week. Bring your bicycle, helmet, headlamp and water. Events are free with no pre-registration. All rides are "shine only."

Guided Historical Tour of the North Point State Battlefield

June 8: 6:00 p.m.

July 13: 6:00 p.m.

August 10: 6:00 p.m.

A hidden treasure located in Dundalk, the North Point State Battlefield was once the location where American soldiers stood firm against British advancement in defense of Baltimore. The Battle of North Point delayed the British enough to enable further fortification of the port city, and, as a result, Baltimore did not suffer a British raid during the War of 1812. Travel back in time as naturalists guide you around the battlefield, setting the scene and recounting the story of the defenders!

Full Strawberry Moon Hike at North Point State Park*

June 9: 8:30 p.m.

Pre-registration required. Park entrance fee in effect.

Algonquin tribes named June's full moon the "Strawberry Moon" because it signaled the time in which they would begin gathering fruit - including the short-lived strawberry harvest! Join naturalists for a guided twilight hike through the woods at North Point State Park. Park in Lot B, walk down the asphalt or dirt path and meet outside the Takos Visitor Center. Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring water.



Sunset Paddle at Days Cove*

June 10: 7:30 p.m.

July 2: 7:30 p.m.

August 6: 7:00 p.m.

September 3: 6:30 p.m.

October 14: 4:30 p.m.

Pre-registration required. \$10/person. Ages 12+.

Explore the scenic Days Cove area by canoe and experience the marshlands as they come alive with wildlife activity in the dusk. Individuals must be at least 12 years old to participate in this 2.4 mile paddle.

Aquatic Exploration!

June 11: 1:00 p.m. (Sparks Bank Nature Center)

July 9: 1:00 p.m. (Jerusalem Mill)

August 13: 1:00 p.m. (Sparks Bank Nature Center)

Bring the whole family to explore the stream and learn how to use a seine and dip net! Collect and identify aquatic insects with the help of a naturalist. Learn the importance of these tiny creatures and how they indicate the health of streams. Dress to get wet!

**Owl Prowl***

June 13: 9:00 p.m. (North Point State Park)

July 29: 9:00 p.m. (Jerusalem Mill)

Pre-registration required. Park entrance fee in effect.

Spend an evening hiking in the woods listening for calls from the hunters of the night. Learn about these amazing animals with hands-on activities during the program. Quiet is the key to a successful night hike; please plan accordingly when considering the participation of young children. Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring water.

Bay Shore Memories at North Point State Park

June 14: 6:00 p.m.

August 9: 6:00 p.m.

Park entrance fee in effect.

Built in 1906, the Bay Shore Amusement Park was in its heyday a bustling and attractive park offering recreation and relaxation to the residents of Baltimore. The park included a dance hall, bowling alley, restaurant, rollercoaster, rides and a pier jutting out into the Chesapeake Bay. Bay Shore Park was accessible by trolley from Baltimore, and was the premier facility of its kind ever located on the Bay. Join naturalists for a 2-mile walk on easy terrain to discover some of the artifacts from the park.

Navigation Basics and Intro to Orienteering at Sweet Air

June 12: 5:30 p.m.

July 20: 5:30 p.m.

August 17: 5:30 p.m.

\$2/person.

Learn how to use a compass and topographical map and take off on an adventure around the park! Originally a training exercise in land navigation for military officers, orienteering has become a globally popular sport. Please bring water and wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes.

Tie-Dye on the Beach at Hammerman

June 9: 5:00 p.m.

July 21: 1:00 p.m.

August 18: 1:00 p.m.

Pre-registration recommended. \$10/shirt (or \$25 for 3 shirts). Park entrance fee in effect.

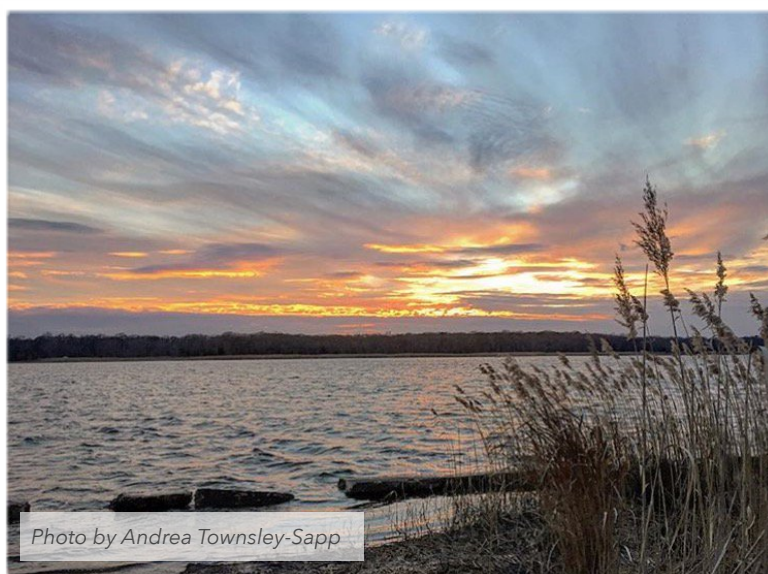


Photo by Andrea Townsley-Sapp

Kids and adults alike are welcome to join us for a leisurely, colorful evening making tie-dye shirts on the beach! A multitude of sizes will be available, but feel free to contact us with specific sizes to pre-register for your shirts. Upon entering the park, continue onto the loop and make a right-hand turn onto the driveway leading to the beach area. Find a parking spot and head down the hill, towards the water. You'll find us set-up with tables on Beach #3!

Twilight Paddle at Days Cove*

June 17: 8:30 p.m.

July 15: 8:00 p.m.

August 19: 7:30 p.m.

September 16: 7:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required. \$10/person. Ages 12+.

Explore the scenic Days Cove area by canoe and experience the marshlands at night! Individuals must be at least 12 years old to participate in this 2.4 mile paddle. This event is shine only.

Father's Day Paddle at Dundee Creek Marina*

June 18: 1:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required. \$10/person. Ages 12+.

Take dad out for a leisurely canoe trip down the Saltpeter Creek, leaving from the Dundee Creek Marina. Watch for birds in the marshlands and fish jumping in the cove. Dad can even bring his rod and reel to try and catch bass and sunfish after the program (providing he has a valid fishing license!). You don't have to be a dad to join us!



Photo by Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Tubing at Monkton*

June 19: 5:00 p.m.

July 24: 5:00 p.m.

August 28: 5:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required. \$5/person. Ages 10+.

Beat the summer heat with a leisurely tubing trip down the Big Gunpowder Falls. Meet at Monkton Station for a 1.8 mile hike up the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail then a two-hour float back to Monkton Station. Wear sunscreen, swimsuits or shorts and sturdy shoes that can get wet. Secure your car

keys. Tubes and PFDs are provided. Please arrive early, as parking spaces are at a premium at this location; follow signs posted along road because towing is enforced.

Geocaching 101

July 18: 6:00 p.m. (Mingo Forks Trail off Mt. Carmel Rd)

September 5: 6:00 p.m. (Big Gunpowder Parking Lot off Rt. 1)

Have you ever wanted to participate in the outdoor treasure hunting activity of geocaching? Join us for a crash course in learning how to use GPS to locate geocache containers. We will hike for approximately 3 miles and attempt to locate several caches placed along the trail. Bring your GPS device or smartphone, or share one of our handheld units. If using a smartphone, we encourage you to create a free account on <https://www.geocaching.com/play> beforehand and downloading the mobile app. Please wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and bring water.

Summer Solstice Hike in Hereford*

June 21: 8:30 p.m.

Pre-registration required.

Celebrate the longest day of the year and the beginning of summer with an evening hike through the beautiful Hereford Wildlands. A ranger will lead you through an exceptional area rarely frequented by visitors and share her immense knowledge of the history and natural resources of the area. Perhaps you'll even catch a glimpse of a rare native orchid or hear the call of a barred owl! Please wear sturdy shoes, dress appropriately for the weather and bring water.

Landscape Sketching of the North Point State Battlefield

June 22: 6:00 p.m.

A hidden treasure located in Dundalk, the North Point State Battlefield was once the location where American soldiers stood firm against British advancement in defense of Baltimore. The Battle of North Point delayed the British enough to enable further fortification of the port city, and, as a result, Baltimore did not suffer a British raid during the War of 1812. Join naturalists for a peaceful



reflection on these hallowed grounds by participating in a guided landscape sketch.

Canoes on the Creek at Dundee Creek Marina*

June 23: 6:00 p.m.

July 28: 6:00 p.m.

August 25: 6:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required. \$10/person. Ages 12+.

Naturalist-led canoe trip along Saltpeter Creek from Dundee Creek Marina. Learn about the wonderful wildlife that lives along this brackish waterway. Canoes and PFDs will be provided, but if you have your own, feel free to bring them along.

Family Fun Day at Hart-Miller Island

June 24: 11:00 a.m.

July 8: 11:00 a.m.

August 26: 11:00 a.m.

September 9: 11:00 a.m.

Join naturalists for a day of fun in the sun on Hart-Miller Island!

Many fun drop-in activities are planned for the day, including a guided hiking or biking tour of the island (wildlife viewing opportunities and a history lesson about the island); fish-seining; milkweed patch exploration and insect identification; drop-in volleyball; and arts & crafts for the kids! Please wear sunscreen, insect repellent and dress for the weather as well as bring water. This event is accessible by personal boat only.



Photo by Andrea Townsley-Sapp

Stargazing

June 24: 9:00 p.m. (Sparks Bank Nature Center)

July 22: 9:00 p.m. (Sweet Air)

Lay out a blanket on the lawn and spend the evening learning about constellations and enjoying the sounds of the night. This event is subject to cancellation due to weather .

4th of July Twilight Paddle*

July 4: 8:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required. \$10/person. Ages 12+.

Explore the Saltpeter and Dundee Creek coves by canoe and experience the marshlands at night - as well as the 4th of July fireworks!

Take Me Fishing at Dundee Creek Marina

July 7: 5:00 p.m.

July 21: 5:00 p.m.

August 4: 5:00 p.m.

August 18: 5:00 p.m.

September 1: 5:00 p.m.

\$2/child.

Fishing instruction for kids under the age of 16 at Dundee Creek Marina. Learn how to tie fishing knots, cast a line and reel in the big one! All resources provided - just bring a smile! No experience needed; our naturalists will teach your child!

Full Buck Moon Hike on Little Gunpowder Trail (from Harford Rd)*

July 9: 8:30 p.m.

Pre-registration required.

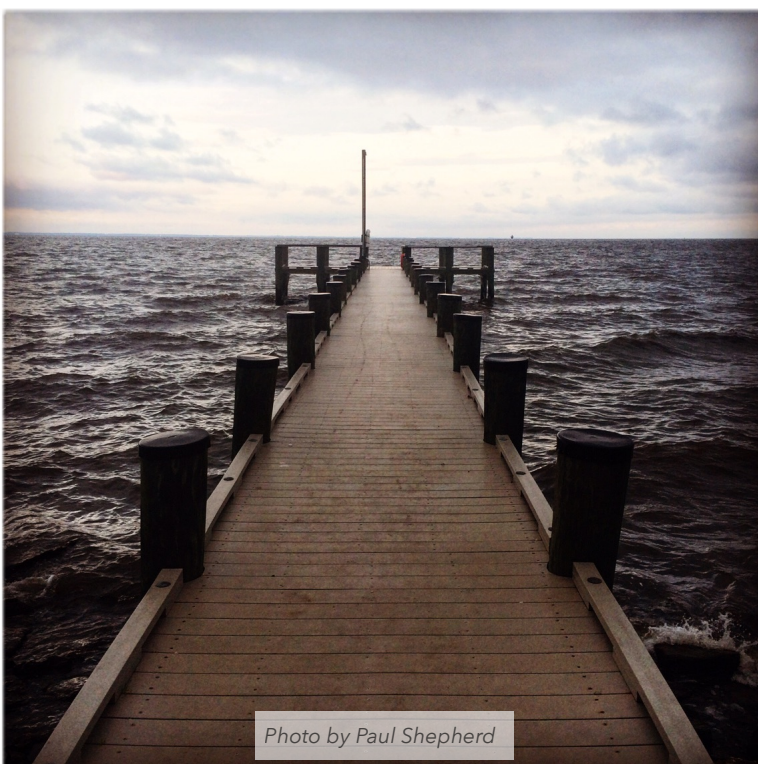


Photo by Paul Shepherd

The full Buck Moon was named by Native Americans for the time of year in which male deer begin growing their antlers. Join us for a casual hike through the woods at twilight, basking in the light of the full moon and listening for the sounds of wildlife. The hike will be approximately 2.5 miles on easy terrain. Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes that you don't mind getting wet or muddy as well as bring water.

Guided Hike on the Mingo Forks Trail (from Mt. Carmel Rd)

July 11: 6:00 p.m.

Join naturalists for a moderate difficulty 2.5-mile hike along the beautiful Mingo Forks Trail in Hereford. Elevation changes will bring you to astounding views and through serene forest. Please wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and bring water.



Photo by Joy Rossback

Campfire by the Gunpowder

July 14: 7:30 p.m. (Sparks Bank Nature Center)

August 11: 5:30 p.m. (North Point State Park).
Park entrance fee in effect.

Bring your chairs or a picnic blanket and enjoy free s'mores by the edge of the Gunpowder River! The whole family can unwind and hear our naturalists share their knowledge of the natural and historical resources in our park.

Culture of Baltimore in the 1800's at North Point State Battlefield

July 27: 6:00 p.m.

A hidden treasure located in Dundalk, the North Point State Battlefield was once the location where American soldiers stood firm

against British advancement in defense of Baltimore. The Battle of North Point delayed the British enough to enable further fortification of the port city, and, as a result, Baltimore did not suffer a British raid during the War of 1812. Join naturalists for a step back in time to learn about the culture of Baltimore in the 1800's.

Guided Hike to the Prettyboy Dam (from Falls Rd)

July 29: 9:00 a.m.

On this hike in Hereford, participants will head towards the Prettyboy Dam where the Big Gunpowder Falls begins. The terrain is moderate-to-difficult (rock scrambling, ducking under mountain laurel), but the challenge does make it fun! The hike is approximately 2.5-miles long, out-and-back. Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring water.

Full Sturgeon Moon Hike on the Little Gunpowder Trail (off Harford Rd)*

August 7: 8:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required.

The Native American fishing tribes dubbed August's full moon the "Sturgeon Moon" since these large fish were readily caught during this month. Some tribes also called August's moon the "Full Red Moon" due to hazy summer air often making the moon appear reddish. Join naturalists for a 3-mile hike on easy terrain. Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring water.

Guided Hike in the Central Area Wildlands (Big Gunpowder off Rt. 1)

August 8: 6:00 p.m.

Naturalists will lead participants through the state designated Wildlands located off the Big Gunpowder Trail. We hope to find some summer-blooming wildflowers and possibly some salamanders near the river! Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring water.

Perseid Meteor Watch at Sweet Air

August 12: 9:30 p.m.

Lay out a blanket on the lawn and enjoy the natural light display created by the Perseid meteors. This meteor shower is typically the most productive during the year, with up to 100 meteors per hour. Naturalists will teach participants about meteor showers and constellations.

Discover Monarchs at Days Cove

August 19: 1:30 p.m.

August 15: 1:00 p.m.

Participate in a search through milkweed patches, looking for Monarch caterpillars and other insects that call milkweed home! We will be collecting caterpillars to raise and release as part of the Monarch Watch program. We will discuss the importance of milkweed as well as the Monarch life cycle and migration.



Geocaching by Bike 101 on the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail

August 22: 6:00 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to participate in the outdoor treasure hunting activity of geocaching? Join us for a unique geocaching experience as we travel approximately 5-7 miles along the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail to find caches. We will teach participants how to use GPS to locate geocache containers and attempt to locate several placed along the trail. Bring your GPS device or smartphone, or share one of our handheld units. If using a smartphone, we encourage you to create a free account on <https://www.geocaching.com/play> beforehand and downloading the mobile app. Please bring your own bicycle, water, and helmets (helmets required for children ages 16 and younger).

Pollinators of Maryland at the North Point State Battlefield

August 24: 6:00 p.m.

A hidden treasure located in Dundalk, the North Point State Battlefield was once the location where American soldiers stood firm against British advancement in defense of Baltimore. The Battle of North Point delayed the British enough to enable further fortification of the port city, and, as a result, Baltimore did not suffer a British raid during the War of 1812. The battle took place between groves of trees and meadow, recreated during the renovation of the Battlefield in 2015. Join naturalists to explore this landscape with a focus on the meadow area to learn about the importance of pollinators. We will even bring Monarch caterpillars and butterflies for an up-close encounter and release.



Full Harvest Moon Hike at Sweet Air*

September 6: 8:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required.

The Native Americans called September's full moon the "Full Harvest Moon" because it symbolized when corn was ready to be harvested. This full moon also typically occurs closest to the autumn equinox. Using the light of the full moon, farmers can work late into the night. Naturalists will navigate participants through the trail system at Sweet Air, eventually walking parallel to the Little Gunpowder Falls where toads and frogs can be heard chirping in the still night. Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring water.

"Bee" a Friend of Pollinators at Hammerman

September 8: 4:00 p.m.

Park entrance fee in effect.

Have you ever wanted to learn how you can help pollinators in your own backyard? Join us to learn about native pollinators and how you can easily construct insect hotels to help provide nesting area for a multitude of beneficial insects! Please wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, closed-toe shoes, and bring insect repellent and water.

**Hike Through the Black Marsh at North Point State Park**

September 10: 1:00 p.m.

Park entrance fee in effect.

Listen to the sounds and observe the sights of the beautiful Black Marsh! This is one of the top-ranked birding hotspots in Maryland. Bring your binoculars or borrow ours! We may even get to sneak a peek at the beaver that calls the marsh her home. Please wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and bring water.

History and Landscape of the North Point State Battlefield

September 14: 5:30 p.m.

A hidden treasure located in Dundalk, the North Point State Battlefield was once the location where American soldiers stood firm against British advancement in defense of Baltimore. The Battle of North Point delayed the British enough to enable further fortification of the port city, and, as a result, Baltimore did not suffer a British raid during the War of 1812. The battle took place between groves of trees and meadow, recreated during the renovation of the Battlefield in 2015. Join naturalists for a peaceful reflection on these hallowed grounds by learning about the history of the battle and the restored meadow habitat.

Birdwatching at Days Cove

September 16: 7:00 a.m.

Join expert and amateur birders from the Harford Bird Club as we search for fall migrants! Days Cove is only open to the public during special programs so the wildlife viewing opportunities are spectacular. Please bring your own binoculars or share a pair of ours. We will also have field guides available to assist in identifying species.

Autumn Equinox Hike on the Gunpowder South Trail (from Big Falls Rd)

September 22: 4:30 p.m.

Celebrate fall by participating in a ranger-led hike! Take in a deep breath of crisp, autumn air as we head out for a 3 - 3.5 mile hike on the Gunpowder South Trail (moderate terrain). Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring water.

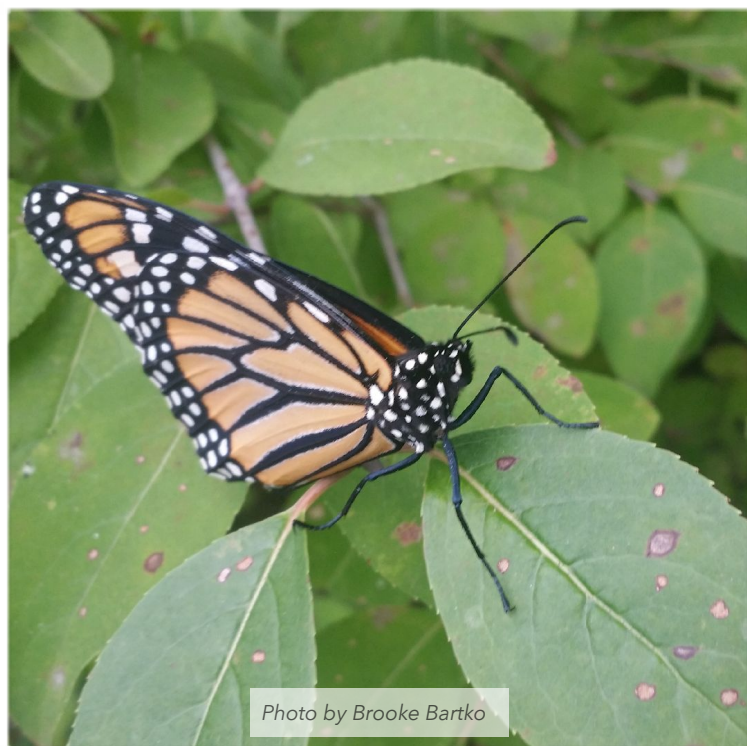


Photo by Brooke Bartko

Monarch Release at Hammerman

September 1: 6:00 p.m.

September 8: 6:00 p.m.

September 15: 6:00 p.m.

September 22: 5:30 p.m.

September 29: 5:30 p.m.

October 7: 3:00 p.m.

Park entrance fee in effect.

Enjoy watching the initial flight of freshly emerged monarch butterflies! Visitors will be able to hold butterflies and take photos with them before they fly away. A naturalist will discuss the monarch life cycle as well as their migration and the threats that these delicate creatures face in both their overwintering habitats and their breeding locations. Butterfly tagging will be demonstrated.

**Guided Hike in Hereford (from York Rd)**

September 30: 10:00 a.m.

Enjoy the crisp autumn weather by joining park naturalists for a guided hike through Hereford. This is a 2.5 mile moderate difficulty hike, which will take participants past Raven Rock Falls. Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes and bring water.

Full Hunter's Moon Hike at North Point State Park*

October 5: 7:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required. Park entrance fee in effect.

This full moon is referred to as the Full Hunter's Moon because Native Americans began hunting animals in order to store meat for the winter months. Join naturalists on a 2.5 mile twilight hike on easy terrain through North Point State Park. Hopefully we'll be able to sneak a peek of the full moon rising over the Chesapeake Bay! Please wear sturdy, close-toe shoes and bring water.

Kids Crafts & Scavenger Hunt at Monkton Station

October 8: 11:00 a.m.

\$2/child.

Kids and parents are invited to drop-in and explore seasonal topics and make crafts with park staff. A variety of fun nature-themed crafts and activities will be provided for your child to choose from, including a scavenger hunt! Parents or guardians must accompany children at all times.

DIY Natural Wreath Workshop at Monkton Station*

October 8: 1:00 p.m.

Pre-registration required. \$10/person. Ages 14+.

Join park staff for a "Do It Yourself" nature decoration crafting workshop at Monkton Station. We will be making autumn-inspired wreathes out of natural materials. \$10/person; ages 14+. All supplies provided. Pre-registration is required - register through Meetup or email andrea.townsley-sapp@maryland.gov. Participation is limited to 12 people so register soon!

Fall Festival at Hammerman

October 22: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Park entrance fee in effect.

An annual Gunpowder tradition returns! Join us for scarecrow making, pumpkin painting, face painting, arts and crafts for kids, hayrides and a campfire! We also invite families to participate in a "trunk-or-treat," where kids get to dress in costume and go from car to car to trick-or-treat. Prizes for best costume and best decorated car!

Leaf Peepers Hike in Hereford (from Mt. Carmel Rd)

October 29: 11:00 a.m.

Accompany a naturalist during our peak fall foliage period and enjoy the sights, smells and sounds of autumn in our Hereford Area. Trails have a moderate difficulty; bring water and wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and clothes appropriate for the weather. Meet at the parking lot off Mt. Carmel Road to hike the Mingo Forks loop. This a moderate-difficulty 2.5-mile hike.

ADDRESSES FOR LOCATIONS WITHIN GUNPOWDER FALLS STATE PARK

- *Bentley Springs Parking Lot*: 534 Bentley Rd, Parkton, MD 21120
- *Big Gunpowder Trail Parking Lot (from Rt. 1)*: 11159 Belair Rd, Kingsville, MD 21087
- *Bunker Hill Parking Lot*: 17724 Bunker Hill Road, Parkton, MD 21120
- *Days Cove*: Located at the end of Days Cove Road in White Marsh, MD. Call 410-592-2897 for detailed directions. This area is only open to the public during scheduled programs.
- *Dundee Creek Marina*: 7400 Graces Quarters Road, Middle River, MD 21220
- *Freeland Parking Lot*: 1068 Freeland Road, Freeland, MD 21053
- *Hammerman Area*: 7200 Graces Quarters Road, Middle River, MD 21220
- *Hart-Miller Island*: GPS Coordinates 39.253133; -76.372067
- *Hereford - Big Falls Road Parking Lot*: 17601-17637 Big Falls Rd White Hall, MD 21161
- *Hereford - Falls Road Parking Lot*: 1001-1243 Falls Road, Parkton, MD 21120
- *Hereford - Mt. Carmel Road Parking Lot*: 969 Mt. Carmel Road, Parkton, MD 21120
- *Hereford - York Road Parking Lot*: 17850 York Road, Parkton, MD
- *Jerusalem Mill*: 2813 Jerusalem Road, Kingsville, MD 21087
- *Little Gunpowder Trail Parking Lot (from Harford Road)*: 13034 Harford Road, Hydes, MD 21082
- *Little Gunpowder Trail Parking Lot (from Rt. 1)*: 12827 Belair Rd, Kingsville, MD 21087
- *Monkton Station*: 1820 Monkton Road, Monkton, MD 21111
- *North Point State Battlefield*: located in the 2880 block of North Point Road, near the intersection of North Point Road and Trappe Road. Look for the snake rail fence.
- *North Point State Park*: 8400 North Point Road, Edgemere, MD 21219
- *Paper Mill Parking Lot*: 1302 Paper Mill Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030
- *Parkton Parking Lot*: GPS Coordinates 39.641339, -76.658970
- *Phoenix Parking Lot*: 14450-14698 Phoenix Rd, Phoenix, MD 21131
- *Sparks Bank Nature Center*: 1237-1407 Sparks Road, Sparks Glencoe, MD 21152
- *Sweet Air*: 2840 Dalton Bevard Road, Baldwin, MD 21013
- *White Hall*: 1411 Wiseburg Road, White Hall, MD 21161

Kids Pages!

Hi! My name is Ranger _____! Let me tell you a _____ story. I was on a
Name Adjective

_____ hike in the middle of _____. First, I came across _____

Adjective Month Number

_____ while walking in the woods. I was so startled I shouted
Color Plural Noun

_____! I _____ starting _____ through the woods to try to
Exclamation Adverb Verb (ending in -ing)

get away. Then I came across my _____ friend named _____ who told
Adjective Name

me that _____ saw something _____ on the trail just ahead. I got really

Pronoun Adjective

_____ and _____ started heading up the trail. As soon as I came
Adjective Adverb

around the bend I saw _____ ! | _____
Number Color Plural Noun Verb

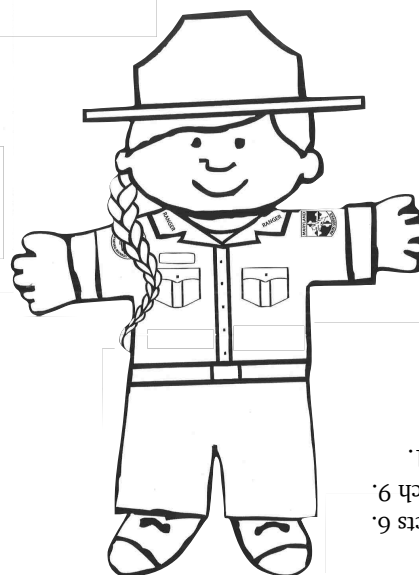
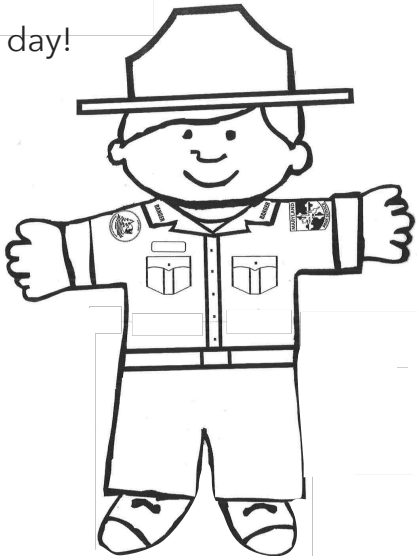
and _____ for my friend. _____ _____ over with a
Verb Pronoun Verb

_____ and scared the _____ away. I haven't _____ that trail since

Noun Plural Noun Verb

that _____ day!

Adjective



Key to Crossword: 1. Rockfish 2. Wildlife 3a. Swimming 3d. Sunscreen 4. Biking 5. Insects 6. Towel 7. Playground 8. Beach 9. Chesapeake 10. Butterfly 11.

Kids Pages!



Across

3. How people cool off in the summertime.
4. A sport using a two-wheeled form of transportation.
5. Another name for "bugs."
8. A sandy place near the water.
9. The Gunpowder River flows into this big body of water.
10. Flying insect with colorful wings.
13. The name of the river that flows through our park!
14. An animal's home.
15. An outing in the park where you grill and eat outside.

Down

1. The official Maryland State fish.
2. "Keep the 'wild' in _____!"
3. Protects you from sunburn.
6. Use this to dry off after swimming.
7. A fun structure to play on.
11. The first word in the name of Gunpowder's marina.
12. The official Maryland State reptile.

Get Involved at Gunpowder

Gunpowder Falls State Park has an incredibly active volunteer network, from the various Friends of Maryland State Parks groups located at Jerusalem Mill, North Point State Park and in the Hereford Area to organizations and individuals that volunteer for days of service! Volunteers contribute both funding and labor to the park in order to complete invaluable projects or host events that entertain and educate the public. These groups, especially the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, willingly accept new volunteers, including Eagle Scouts and Boy Scouts of America troops looking to complete service projects.

Organizing service projects within the park is a relatively simple process. After contacting the park, Scouts meet with a park representative to discuss and pick projects (either projects recommended by the park, or ideas from the Scout). A rough timeline and list of deadlines must then be compiled by the Scout, as well as the written detailed project proposal; project blueprints with material list; a plan for fundraising the money for project supplies and materials; a proposal if tools or machinery are needed from the park; and a draft schedule of work days.

Consistent communication between the Scout and the park is required; sending a work timeline and bi-weekly updates about project progression help both the Scout stay focused and the park aware of the status of the project. This is especially important if working on a project that affects visitors.

Because the process of approval for projects and the projects themselves may take a great deal of time, we suggest the Scout to plan his project well in advance of his 18th birthday in order to meet the deadline. For more information about volunteering in the park or completing service projects, please call Park Headquarters at 410-592-2897 and you will be directed to a park representative who can assist you.

Other Volunteer Opportunities!

With over 18,000 acres and 120 miles of trail, Gunpowder can use your help! Contact the groups below directly using the contact information provided, or call 410-592-2897 for more information. Log on to the Maryland Park Service volunteer webpage for more volunteer opportunities: ec.volunteernow.com/custom/1528/

FRIENDS OF
JERUSALEM MILL
jerusalemmill.org
410-877-3560

NCR HEREFORD
VOLUNTEER
ASSOCIATION
ncrtrail.org

GRAHAM
EQUESTRIAN
CENTER
grahameq.org
410-663-4445

NORTH POINT
STATE PARK
VOLUNTEERS
[northpointstatepark.
homestead.com](http://northpointstatepark.homestead.com)

GUNPOWDER
UNITED MOUNTAIN
BIKE OPERATORS
(GUMBO)
littlegunpowder.com

VOLUNTEER
MOUNTED PATROL
410-592-2897

Maryland Park Service Career Opportunities

A career with the Maryland Park Service is an opportunity to work in some of Maryland's most beautiful places, while serving the outdoor recreation needs of over 10 million visitors each year. This privilege involves working with a dedicated and skilled team of park professionals who are passionate about natural and historic resource conservation, recreation and interpretation.



The Maryland Park Service hires approximately 700 seasonal employees annually to help maintain and operate Maryland's public lands. These positions include: rangers, maintenance, lifeguards, contact station attendants, marina attendants, naturalists and office administrative staff.

If you are looking to begin a career with the Maryland Park Service, working in a seasonal position is the perfect way to gain experience in order to become a full-time employee. For more information about each position, visit dnr.maryland.gov/Publiclands/Pages/careers.aspx

All recruitments are posted on the JobAps website for Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Candidates interested in applying for full-time positions, as well as contractual seasonal positions, with the Maryland Park Service must apply online through the JobAps website: jobaps.com/MD

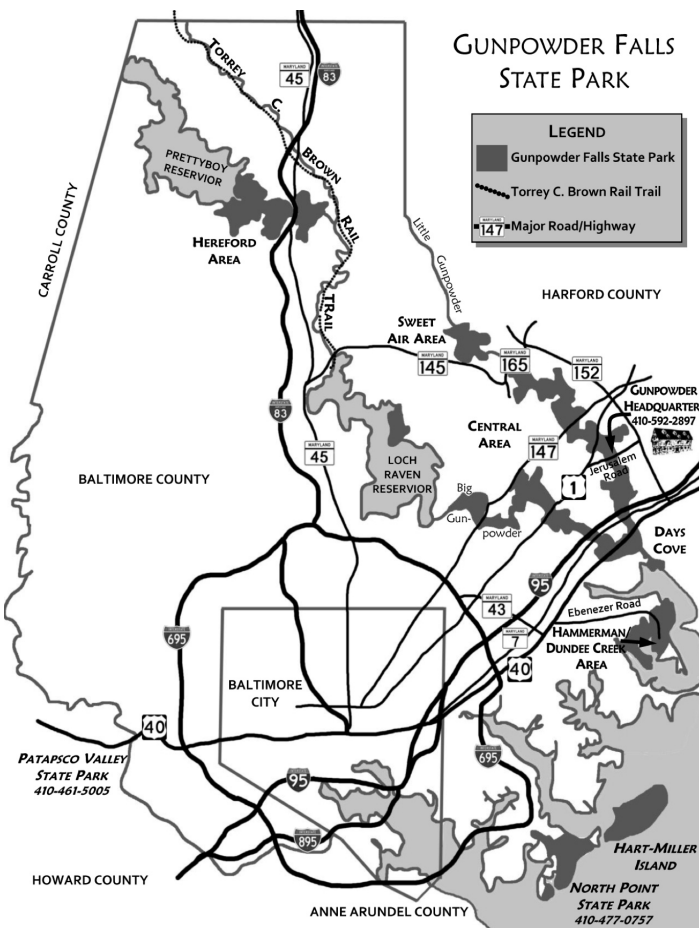
Get Your 2017 State Park & Trail Passport

The 2017 State Park and Trail Passport is available for purchase - \$75 for Maryland residents and \$100 for non-Maryland residents. The passport can be used for:

- Unlimited boat launching at all state facilities, including Dundee Creek Marina at Gunpowder Falls State Park,
- Unlimited day-use admission for everyone in the vehicle (up to 10 people) at every Maryland state park (does not guarantee entry into parks full to capacity) and
- A 10% discount on concession items from state-operated facilities and boat rentals.

The park passport can be purchased online at shopdnr.com, or in-person from Gunpowder Falls at the following locations:

- Park Headquarters (Jerusalem Mill, 2813 Jerusalem Road, Kingsville, MD 21087),
- Hammerman Area Ranger Station (7200 Graces Quarters Road, Middle River, MD 21220) or
- North Point State Park (8400 North Point Road, Edgemere, MD 21219).



ABOUT GUNPOWDER FALLS STATE PARK

Established in 1959 to protect the Gunpowder River and the Big and Little Gunpowder valleys, Gunpowder Falls State Park is now Maryland's largest state park. Comprised of over 18,000 acres in Harford and Baltimore counties, Gunpowder's narrow corridors host a varied topography ranging from tidal wetlands to steep and rugged slopes. Gunpowder features more than 120 miles of trails, protected state Wildlands, historic sites, fishing, canoeing/kayaking streams, a swimming beach and a marina.

The park is divided into six areas: Hereford, Sweet Air, Central, Hammerman, Dundee Creek and the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail. The park also operates North Point and Hart-Miller Island state parks and North Point State Battlefield.

PARK HEADQUARTERS

Gunpowder Falls State Park headquarters are located in the restored gristmill at Jerusalem Mill Historic Village. The office is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed

The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability. This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with a disability.

Contributors: Brooke Bartko, John Kinney, Jared Novia, Andrea Townsley-Sapp

Layout and images (unless otherwise noted): Andrea Townsley-Sapp

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Larry Hogan, Governor
Mark Belton, Secretary

